

The Chronicle and Index

OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY.

No. 59, Vol. v.]

BELFAST, NOVEMBER 1st, 1885.

[For Gratuitous Circulation.

THE Rev. J. C. Street acknowledges, with thanks, the following contributions in aid of the gratuitous publication and circulation of the *Chronicle and Index* :—Miss Winstanley, Clitheroe, 2s 6d; Mrs. Pirrie, Belfast, 2s; a Sheffield Friend (per Mr. Palfreyman), 10s.

THE British and Foreign Unitarian Association is making its Annual Appeal to the scattered congregations throughout the country for substantial aid from them to carry on its work. No doubt there will be a wide and generous response. The response would be all the more general and substantial if the Association could be made thoroughly representative, which it can never be so long as its Executive Committee is composed, mainly, if not exclusively, of Metropolitan Unitarians. There ought to be a committee selected from the whole country, and the travelling expenses of such committee should be paid. In this way we might hope for a better state of things than at present exists.

THE Sewing Class at Hopeton Street has been resumed, and meets every Wednesday evening at half-past seven. Miss May, the treasurer, begs to acknowledge the following subscriptions in aid of the expenses it incurs :—

Mrs. Russell,	..	..	£2	0	0
Mrs. James Campbell,	..	..	0	5	0
Mr. McClelland,	..	..	0	5	0
Mrs. Dobbin,	..	..	0	5	0

On Sunday, October 18th, the monthly Religious Services in connection with the Hopeton Street Sunday School were resumed. There was a large attendance of scholars and teachers. Mr. D. Bulmer gave out the hymns, and the

rest of the service was conducted by the Rev. J. C. Street. The parable of the "Labourers in the Vineyard" was selected for exposition, and the children's interest was elicited and sustained by questions upon the meaning and fairness of the story in the parable. The children sang with earnestness the hymns selected for the occasion.

THE first Winter Conference of the friends of Sunday Schools is to be held in Rosemary Street Schools, Belfast, on Wednesday, November 4th. Tea will be provided at 7 o'clock, and the chair will be taken at 8 o'clock by the Chairman of the Sunday School Committee, Mr. J. M. Darbishire. A paper will be read by the Rev. T. Dunkerley, B.A., of Comber, after which a discussion will take place. We hope there will be a large and interesting gathering on the occasion. Tickets may be had at the Depository, Queen's Arcade.

THE Sunday School of the Church of the Second Congregation reassembled on Sunday, October 4th, under the superintendency of Mr. J. M. Darbishire. There was a special Religious Service. The Sunday School Liturgy was read by Mr. Darbishire, and the address was delivered by the Rev. J. C. Street. He gave an account of the proceedings which had taken place at the Temperance Jubilee in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and spoke earnestly to the children and teachers on the subject of temperance. Mr. Robert Barry undertook the duty of Librarian in succession to Miss J. H. Coe, who has held the office for several years with great efficiency, but who is unable to continue to act in the same capacity owing to the distance of her residence from the school. Mr. Barry

will, we doubt not, keep up the efficiency of the office.

REV. EDGAR S. ANTHONY, M.A., who had lately been engaged in missionary work at the East End of London, was on Friday, 9th Sept., ordained to the pastoral charge of the Raloo Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church by the Presbytery of Templepatrick. The attendance, notwithstanding the cool and somewhat showery nature of the day and the distance of this church from any railway station, was good. Besides the representatives of the congregation and friends there were present as officiating ministers and visitors, Revs. Moore Getty, J. Callwell, A. H. Shelley, James Hall, F. Thomas, E. Crooks, W. Fielding, Thomas Dunkerley, B.A., J. C. Street, R. J. Orr, M.A., and J. H. Bibby.

Service was conducted by Rev. A. H. Shelley, who preached from Ephesians i. 22 and 23, upon theories of Church organisation, the headship of Christ, and the relation of the Church to the world. The sermon having been listened to with much attention, and the hymns usual on such occasions impressively sung—the harmonium being skillfully played by Miss Thomas—the specially characteristic portions of the day's duties were undertaken by Revs. M. Getty, F. Thomas and J. Callwell. The former entered into an explanation and defence of Presbyterian Church government, quoting passages from Scripture, &c. His questions to Rev. E. S. Anthony were answered by the minister-elect making his declaration of Non-Subscribing principles, Christian faith, Unitarian convictions, and pastoral resolutions to labour in the vocation whereto he was called. The congregation and ministers were then respectively interrogated on the subject of the call given and accepted, and which was unanimous. Thereupon the ministers of other Presbyteries present, &c., were invited to partake with the Templepatrick Presbytery in the formal dedication of Mr. Anthony to his ministerial function, Rev. F. Thomas impressively offering the ordination prayer. At the conclusion of this ceremony Rev. J. Callwell ascended the pulpit to give the charge to the

minister and people. In a most effective manner he spoke of ministerial expectations and experiences, congregational habits, and the happiness of a well-adopted bond between the flock and its leader. Nature and human nature were to be studied as well as the Bible; prayer and visiting pursued as well as preaching; and practical sympathy should be evidenced by the people as well as felt. The rev. gentleman concluded the impressive devotions of the day with prayer and benediction. The hospitality of the congregation was well manifested by an entertainment provided for those who had come from a distance. When the tables had been cleared, Mr. Gray was called to the chair, and votes of thanks passed to the visitors, &c., Revs. J. Callwell, J. C. Street, T. Dunkerley, R. J. Orr, E. S. Anthony, and others acknowledging these with abundant humour, as well as due kindness of feeling. A soiree in the evening terminated the day's proceedings.

It will be seen from another part of our columns that the Rosemary Street Mutual Improvement Association has entered upon the 14th year of its history. The opening soiree, of which we give elsewhere a report, was of a most cheery character, and was numerously attended. The first Lecture of the season was given by the President, the Rev. J. C. Street, on "A Political Programme for Progressive Reformers." Mr. George Fisher occupied the chair, and there was a very large attendance. Mr. Street, in the course of an able and exhaustive address, pointed out that the reforms which have been attained are not, and are not to be, the goals of the progressive reformer's aspirations. They are only weapons in the hands of the people to gain those ends which are essential, not for "the greatest good of the greatest number," which was the exalted aim of Bentham and his school, but for the true object of the progressive reformer, the greatest good of all. These points he dwelt upon in detail, chief amongst them being the total abolition of all monopolies, graduated incidence of State-imposed burdens; the abolition of the principle of hereditary legislation; free edu-

cation—primary and secondary—without distinction of sex or class; throwing open to all competent persons of all State offices; and the abolition of standing armies. The lecturer also held that there should be free ports all over the Empire. On the motion of Dr. Hyndman, seconded by Mr. W. J. Roche, a vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer. Mr. Street briefly replied, and the proceedings terminated. This was followed on the 19th October by an admirable Paper from Mr. Vinycomb on “An Historic Emblem Flower—The Daisy.” On the 26th, Mr. Stuart read a capital Paper on “Charles Dickens.” The meetings were all lively, and well attended. New members continue to be enrolled.

THE Winter season of Sunday Evening Lectures began in Comber, and in the Church of the Second Congregation, Rosemary Street, Belfast, with the month of October. The opening Sundays of the month were very unfavorable, owing to the heavy downfall of rain, but the attendance was very encouraging. Mr. Street's audiences have increased each Sunday. The subjects treated by him during the month have been—

One Step further in Advance.
Leaders and Leadership.
Leaders in Theology.
Religious Leaders.

For us, whatever's undergone,
Thou knowest, willest, what is done.
Grief may be joy misunderstood:
Only the good discerns the good.
I trust Thee while my days go on.

Whatever's lost, it first was won!
We will not struggle nor impugn,
Perhaps the cup was broken here
That heaven's new wine might shine
more clear.
I praise Thee while my days go on.

I praise Thee while my days go on,
I love Thee while my days go on!
Through dark and dearth, through fire
and frost,
With empty arms and treasure lost,
I thank Thee while my days go on!

—Mrs. Browning.

THE Scottish Unitarian Association held its Anniversary Meetings during the month of

October. The sermons were preached by the Rev. Frank Walters, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the Rev. A. Lazenby, of Glasgow, on Sunday, the 18th. Collections were made both at St. Vincent Street and St. Mungo Street Churches.

The Annual Meeting of the subscribers was held on Monday, the 19th, when the Reports for the year were adopted and the new Committee elected. The Reports were of a most cheery character, and the work of the Theological Lecturer, and of the Rev. J. E. Stronge, of Kilbarchan and Paisley, gave great satisfaction. A new substantial legacy was reported, so that the funds of the Association were considerably augmented.

At the meetings on Tuesday, the 20th inst., there were representatives from a distance present. The Rev. T. L. Marshall, of London, appeared to represent the British and Foreign Unitarian Association; the Rev. J. C. Street, of Belfast, to represent the Belfast Unitarian Society; and the Rev. Channing Pollard, of Sunderland, to represent the Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Association. Mrs. Webster was also present, from Melbourne, and took an important part in the proceedings. The other ministers present were Rev. A. Webster, of Aberdeen, and the Rev. H. Williamson, of Dundee.

The newly-elected President, Mr. Ballantyne, gave a breakfast to the visitors and friends, and addresses were delivered at it by himself, Rev. T. L. Marshall, Rev. F. Walters, Rev. J. C. Street, and Rev. A. Lazenby.

A Sunday School Conference and a Missionary Conference were held in the afternoon, and a Public Soiree was held afterwards in St. Vincent Street Church. The proceedings throughout the day were of a most gratifying character, and the speeches were helpful and encouraging.

On Wednesday, the 21st, the Rev. J. C. Street presided at a crowded meeting at Kilbarchan, when Mr. Walters gave a fine lecture on “Natural Democracy;” and on Thursday the same gentleman presided at a meeting in the Town Hall of Partick, when the Rev. C. J. Street, M.A., lectured on “The True Way of

Salvation." The anniversary week was a busy one, and it seemed to give pleasure and inspiration to all concerned in it.

ONE of the remarkable features connected with the present political activity throughout the country is the large number of Liberal candidates for Parliamentary honours who belong to the Unitarian community. They are in nearly all cases the accepted candidates of the Liberal Associations, and in most instances they seem sure of being returned to Parliament. It is certain that the new House of Commons will contain a very numerous and influential body of Unitarians.

THE Rev. James Forrest, M.A., of Kilmarnock, has withdrawn from the Evangelical Union body as a protest against their attempt, in his person, to stifle freedom of thought and utterance among their ministers.

THE following beautiful and touching epitaph is from a churchyard in Massachusetts:—

"I came in the morning—it was Spring, and I smiled;
I walked out at noon—it was Summer; and I was glad;
I sat me down at night—it was Winter, and I slept."

LINES

DEDICATED TO THE REV. J. C. STREET.

My dust will moulder on the hill
Beneath the willow tree,
Inanimate to lie there still;
Or is't my destiny
Afar beyond the realms of day
To purge the dross of sin away?

My soul besmeared with worldly lust
Must be resigned to God
Beyond the grave in trembling trust;
And there await the rod
Remedial, where new-born Love
Forever reigns in realms above.

A. BRADLEY.

NEW ZEALAND.

ON Monday evening, Oct. 5th, the Rosemary Street Mutual Improvement Association held its fourteenth inaugural annual meeting in the Lecture Hall, Rosemary Street. There was a large attendance of members and friends. The numerous attendance included, besides

many ladies, the following:—Rev. J. C. Street, President; Mr. Thomas M'Clelland, J.P.; Mr. James M. Darbishire, Mr. George Fisher, Vice-Presidents; Rev. J. H. Bibby, Rev. W. R. L. Kinahan, Dr. M'Caw, Colonel Glancy, Messrs. D. Bulmer, Wm. Cochrane, W. W. Drummond, hon. sec.; F. E. Dale, W. C. Dobbin, John M. Dobbin, H. Fisher, S. Fletcher, W. Gray, M.R.I.A.; J. F. Hodges, jun., F.C.S.; R. Jones, V. G. Jennings, J. W. Kinnear, C. J. Knox, J. M. Lindsay, S. Millen, J. F. Mulligan, F. D. F. O'Connor, T. E. Osborne, hon. treasurer; F. Peel, W. J. Roche, W. Rankin, J. Ritchie, jun.; W. R. Stitt, A. K. Stewart, A. W. C. Spackman, S. H. Street, R. H. Todd, J. Vinycomb, W. H. Welch, &c.

After tea, which was served in the lower hall, the company adjourned to the upper Lecture Hall, which was very tastefully decorated with photographs, cromos, oil paintings, water colours, &c. On the centre table there were displayed a number of stereoscopic views, microscopes, &c. The works of art were kindly lent by Messrs. Rodman, Magill, Brownlee, Campbell, Johnston, Mavius & Vivash, and Poole. A number of plants and flowers, lent by Mr. M'Duff, were also arranged on the tables.

The Secretary proposed the names of three ladies and three gentlemen as members of the Society.

Mr. Stitt seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The President then said it became his duty that night to occupy the chair at the inaugural meeting of that Association at the beginning of the fourteenth year of its history. Thirteen years had passed over their heads, and that night they entered upon a new era. During the thirteen years that had passed it had been his privilege and honour to be their President, and by the hearty and unanimous vote of the Society he had once again been appointed to that office—and the first duty which fell to his lot as their President was to occupy the chair at this the first meeting for the present year. Now, he did not propose to weary them with any account of the proceedings of the Society. Most of them or many of them were as familiar

with the work and success of the Society as he himself was. Many of them had attended most of its meetings during the years that were passed, and certainly those who had been privileged to attend all through the course would be able to agree with him when he declared that the Society had been exceptionally prosperous. It had drawn together a very varied band of members and friends; it had had interesting and valuable suggestions laid before it from time to time by its members, and the papers which had been submitted had been of a high literary, artistic, and scientific character. The discussions which had marked its history had been keen, clever, and analytical, and the tone, temper, and spirit which had characterised all the proceedings had been of an eminently gratifying character. Those who had passed through all the history of it, as he had done, would, he was sure, have come to the conclusion that the establishment of the Society was a good thing, and that its continuance had been a better thing. That day it entered upon a new career, the fourteenth year of its history, with brighter prospects than it ever had before. There had been some changes made in the *personnel* of the officers and the committee for the management of the Society. They had not lost any friend; they had gained new friends, and some friends had but passed away from the rank of officers into the more quiet region of ordinary members. Some were called away to other parts of the world to carry on the same work of education there, but all those who had ever been associated with that Society retained, no matter where they were, a friendly interest in its welfare, and were exceedingly anxious from time to time to know what it was doing. They had members in various parts of the world—some in the antipodes, some in America, some in the East as far as India—and wherever those members had gone they carried with them pleasant recollection of happy times in the past, and they kept up a continuous interest in the Society; so he thought he might fairly say they had lost no friends in their history, but they had certainly from time to time and from year to year added to their list. It was pleasing to him to see

at the commencement of their proceedings that night a number of new members added to the Society. He had reason to hope that the session upon which they were entering would show a very considerable increase in their membership. The programmes that had been before them had been of a very varied and valuable character, and he thought the Association might be congratulated upon the programme which the secretaries and committee had prepared for them for the first half of the present session. Most of them would have received those little cards, and will have carefully scanned their contents, and they would concur with him in saying that the programme for the present session was of a most interesting and valuable character. He observed there were papers on literary, artistic, theological, political, economical subjects. There were things taken up which touched nearly all the aspects of their modern life. If there was a deficiency it was in the direction of scientific papers and lectures. He should have been glad if more of that character had been incorporated in it. He had no doubt in the second half of the session this would be carefully provided for. It was impossible to over-estimate the value and importance of scientific culture in this advanced period of the world's history. He thought it was becoming evident to all that matters pertaining to accurate scientific study were growing of greater moment every day. The great achievements of the last fifty years were the achievements of science. The revolution which had taken place in matters of thought and opinion had been inaugurated and carried on through accomplished results of scientific teaching. The most extraordinary development which had taken place in their knowledge had come from scientific teachings. It, therefore, became a matter of grave moment that all societies which sought the culture of their members should give special heed to matters pertaining to science. He, therefore, hoped that in the second half of the session there would be brought before them more scientific papers. Meanwhile they were thankful for the good gifts provided, and glad to have laid before

them so interesting and varied a programme. He thought they might go forward with a great deal of hope and satisfaction to the work that lay before them at the present session. He had only one word to add: when they began that Society, thirteen years ago, they resolved it should be absolutely free and unsectarian—that it should neither be limited by congregation, creed, nor political party, but that it should, as far as possible, include within its membership all orders, ranks, and conditions of men and women among them; that it should be open to anyone; that all should be welcome within its midst; and that they should be desirous to find that which was noblest and best; and, up to the present time, he thought they had been thoroughly faithful to the aims set before them. It would be strange if, with such a history behind them, they did not take care to be at least as comprehensive as they had been in the past. He welcomed them now to the commencement of the fourteenth session of the Society, and he trusted they would assist him in making it as prosperous as any of the previous sessions had been.

The following programme was then at intervals gone through very successfully:—Pianoforte solo, Miss Kershaw; duet, Miss Darbshire and Dr. M'Caw; part song; song, Dr. M'Caw; reading, Rev. J. H. Bibby; song, Miss Darbshire; song, Miss Fisher; pianoforte solo, Miss Kershaw; part song.

At the close of the musical part of the programme,

Mr. Darbshire moved a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had kindly lent works of art and flowers, to the ladies who had presided at the tea tables, and to those ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in the entertainment programme.

Mr. Dale seconded the motion, which was passed

Mr. Bulmer having been called to the second chair,

On the motion of Mr. Thomas M'Clelland, J.P., seconded by Mr. W. C. Dobbin, a vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to Mr. Street for his kindness in presiding, and the

warm interest he had always taken in the affairs of the Society.

Rev. Mr. Street, in returning thanks, said that he had just returned from a brief holiday. When he left he felt, owing to his health, that he would hardly be able to undertake his usual amount of work when he came back. But somehow within the last ten days there came a change, and he began to feel he would come back stronger far than when he went away. He was exceedingly glad to be able to say he was back fresher and more vigorous by far than he was before he went away.

This terminated the business part of the proceedings, and the company continued their inspection of the numerous interesting exhibits. The proceedings terminated shortly before eleven o'clock.

A REMARKABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Two centuries have passed since the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. It is not astonishing that an event so fraught with disaster to French Protestants should be remembered by their posterity. That Edict, subscribed by Henry IV., on the 15th April, 1598, established, with some restrictions, universal liberty and equality of religious profession and worship throughout France. Protestants were admitted on equal terms to all public employments and dignities. The Edict, in fact, was an attempt to set up, so far as the Huguenots were concerned, a Free Church in a Free State. The freedom was not exactly perfect, and in many parts of France the temper of the people circumscribed the provisions of the Edict. Nevertheless, under it the professors of the "Reformed Faith" enjoyed for a time a fair measure of religious liberty. Those were days in which neither Catholic nor Protestant had learned the maxims of toleration. Christianity, by removing religion from the authority of statesmen, laid the foundation of a policy of which the separation of Church and State is the only legitimate consummation.

The amalgamation of the spiritual and the secular with which Constantine is credited damaged both institutions. Through this alliance nations had imposed upon them constitu-

tutions which politically denied to men their rights as subjects, and, in the religious sphere, their rights as Christians. Given the idea that States exist for the propagation of religious truth, persecution is inevitable. There were, however, no very clear ideas on this point in France towards the close of the sixteenth century, and the Edict of Nantes might accordingly be considered rather in advance of the age. It was not extraordinary, therefore, that a good deal of grumbling arose respecting the liberty which it conferred, or that efforts were made to secure its repeal. Those anxious to accomplish that object found a fitting instrument in Madame de Maintenon. This lady belonged to the great Huguenot family of D'Aubigny. Brought up in the family faith, she was subsequently transported to a Convent of Ursalines. It is not necessary to recall her marriage with Scarron, except to say that in her home she was made familiar with the gayest and most dissolute society of France. At Scarron's death she obtained the post of governess to the children of Madame de Montespan. Her influence over Louis XIV. was unbounded, and at the suggestion of the patrons of intolerance, she undertook to secure the repeal of the Edict of Nantes.

We need not dwell upon the conditions under which Madame de Maintenon entered upon her ominous task. On the 22nd of October, 1685, the Act of Revocation was published. This involved the demolition of the Protestant churches throughout the kingdom. Even private worship was forbidden, and all Protestant schools were closed. In a few weeks eight hundred churches were destroyed, including the great Protestant temple at Charenton, in the vicinity of Paris. The most remorseless persecution of the Calvinists now arose. Everything fanaticism could do was done to stamp out the doctrines of the great Picardine who had cast so potent a spell over Christendom. The sufferings of the proscribed Huguenots were of the most horrible character. Without entering into detail, we cannot better describe the degradation to which the French Protestants were compelled to stoop than by saying that the infamous penal laws under which the

catholics of Ireland so long groaned were virtually a copy of the oppression to which the Huguenots of France were subjected. Happily, this persecution has long since terminated. But the germ thereof lies latent in the union between Church and State, and until this be seen there is always a danger, should the opportunity arise, of repeating the folly of which history is full. By the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, France lost the flower of her artisan population. Scattered over Europe, and above all over England, they became the founders of industries that have in no small degree contributed to the manufacturing and commercial supremacy of the United Kingdom. In arts and in arms, in science and in law, in literature and theology, the descendants of the hunted Huguenots have been alike pre-eminent.—*Newcastle Chronicle*.

Rosemary Street Mutual Improvement Association.

FOURTEENTH SESSION, 1885-86.

The Committee have much pleasure in announcing the following

PROGRAMME UNTIL CHRISTMAS, 1885.

1885.

- Nov. 2.—Paper: "The Linen Trade." Mr. W. J. Roche.
 " 9.—Lecture: "The Immortality of the Soul in the Hebrew Scriptures." Rev. Edwin Collins.
 " 16.—Paper: "The Progress of Democracy." Mr. S. Millin.
 " 23.—Music and Readings.
 " 30.—Paper: "Life." Mr. William Beck.
 Dec. 7.—Lecture: "John Ruskin: a Sketch of his Life and Work." Rev. J. H. Bibby.
 " 14.—Miscellaneous Original Compositions.
 " 21.—Paper: "The Fallacies of (so-called) Fair Trade." Mr. Alexander Bowman.

THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

ARE
*The intellectual and moral advancement
 of its Members, and the furtherance of
 acquaintance and fellowship among them.*

The Meetings are held on MONDAY EVENINGS at Eight o'clock, in the Rosemary Street Schools.

ADMISSION.—To Lectures and Discussions, Members, Free; Non-Members, Sixpence each. To Papers, and Music and Readings—Free.

MEMBER'S SUBSCRIPTION.—4s. per annum, which entitles to the use of the Library. Subscriptions for the Fourteenth Session are now due and should be paid to the Treasurer, THOS. EDENS OSBORNE, at 14, Lombard Street, as early as possible.

The Library will be open at 1 p.m. on Sundays, and on every Monday Evening during the Session.

K. M. DOBBIN, } Hon.
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the Depository, on application to the Agent.

We invite our friends to call and inspect
the new Tracts and Books which are offered
for sale at the Depository.

Contributions in aid of the *Chronicle and*
Index will be gladly received and acknowledged
by the Rev. J. C. STREET.